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EVENING PAPERS .. THURSDAY, 20th JANUARY, 1938.  
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EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT - DECEMBER QUARTER, 1937.

The latest available statistics, from various sources, which offer some indication of the movement of Employment and Unemployment throughout Australia have been issued by the Commonwealth Statistician (Dr. Roland Wilson).

Employment in Factories: The estimated number of persons employed in Australian factories in 1936-37 was 15% greater than in the pre-depression years of 1928-29, and 6% greater than in the year 1935-36. When the growth in employee population is taken into account, the 1936-37 index-number was 4% greater than the 1928-29 and the 1935-36 figures, which were equal. During 1936-37 the latter index steadily for the first six months, and for the second six months remained steady at a level about 7% higher than the average for 1935-36. During the first five months of 1937-38 this index rose by a further 7% on the average for 1936-37.

The following are the estimated percentage increases in factory employment from November, 1936 to November, 1937 (the latest month for which figures are available for all States):- New South Wales, 9.6; Victoria, 7.4; Queensland, 7.4; South Australia, 7.3; Western Australia, 0.9; Tasmania, 1.7; Australia, 8.7 (or, taking account of the growth of employee population, 6.7).

Employment in Retail Stores: The index-numbers for Australia for the year 1936-37 indicate a 25% increase in employment since July, 1933 (the first date for which figures are available), and a 6% increase since 1935-36. When the growth of employee population is taken into account increases are 20% since July, 1933 and 5% since 1935-36. During the first five months of 1937-38 there was a rise of 2% in the Australian retail employment index (adjusted) above the average level of 1936-37.

The following are the estimated percentage changes in employment in retail stores from November, 1936 to November, 1937 (the last month for which figures are available for all States):- New South Wales, +4.9; Victoria, +2.9; Queensland, -0.9; South Australia, —; Western Australia, —; Tasmania, +5.0; Australia, +3.2 (or, taking account of the growth of employee population, +1.7).

New Matter: The table on page 4 showing the masculinity percentages of persons employed in factories has been extended to include monthly figures from July, 1935.

## MONTHLY INDEX OF FACTORY EMPLOYMENT - EXCLUDING WORKING PROPRIETORS (a)

(BASE: Average for year 1928-29 = 100)

Period	New South Wales			Victoria			Queensland			South Australia			Western Australia			Tasmania			Australia					
																			Unadjusted Index			Index divided by Index of Employee Population		
Number of Employees, 1928-29	M. 129,539; F. 44,581; T. 174,120			M. 98,068; F. 51,198; T. 149,266			M. 35,581; F. 7,855; T. 43,436			M. 29,014; F. 6,362; T. 35,376			M. 16,039; F. 3,760; T. 19,799			M. 7,703; F. 2,281; T. 9,984			M. 315,944; F. 116,037; T. 431,981			.. ..		
	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.
Index for 1926-27	100	98	99	102	99	101	101	89	99	113	109	112	95	91	94	105	88	101	101	98	100	106	102	105
1927-28	99	97	98	100	98	100	101	92	99	106	106	106	98	97	98	107	104	106	100	98	100	102	100	102
1928-29	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1929-30	90	91	90	96	98	97	95	94	94	87	89	87	94	98	94	105	99	104	92	95	93	91	93	92
1930-31	68	75	70	78	83	80	83	85	84	63	71	64	68	76	69	85	83	84	73	79	75	71	76	72
1931-32	66	79	69	77	90	81	78	84	79	61	76	64	61	75	63	84	87	85	70	84	74	68	80	71
1932-33	73	86	76	87	101	92	80	92	82	68	84	71	68	81	70	86	90	87	78	93	82	74	87	77
1933-34	82	94	85	96	107	100	86	99	88	77	89	80	75	85	77	93	89	92	86	99	90	81	92	84
1934-35	93	107	97	106	113	108	92	105	94	89	97	91	83	92	85	101	97	100	96	108	100	89	99	92
1935-36	104	116	107	117	119	117	97	110	99	104	110	105	99	106	100	112	103	110	107	116	109	98	105	100
1936-37	n.a.	n.a.	115	122	119	121	104	113	106	111	111	111	105	108	106	118	101	114	115	118	115	104	105	105
1935 - July ..	99	108	101	109	111	110	97	104	98	99	102	100	93	100	94	104	98	103	102	108	104	94	98	95
August ..	100	111	103	110	115	112	99	110	101	97	105	99	93	101	95	105	94	102	103	112	105	95	101	97
September	101	114	104	113	118	115	98	113	101	101	109	102	95	104	97	106	93	103	104	115	107	96	104	98
October ..	103	117	106	116	120	117	101	114	104	103	109	104	98	105	99	109	96	106	106	117	109	98	106	100
November	105	119	108	118	122	119	102	115	104	102	108	103	100	108	101	113	98	109	108	118	111	100	107	102
December	105	119	109	118	120	119	98	112	101	104	110	105	101	108	102	116	104	113	108	118	111	100	106	102
1936 - January ..	104	111	105	116	115	116	89	104	92	103	106	104	100	105	101	117	104	114	106	112	107	97	101	98
February	(c)104	118	(c)107	119	122	120	92	108	95	107	116	109	102	105	102	119	122	120	108	119	111	99	107	101
March ..	(c)105	122	(c)110	122	125	123	95	112	98	110	117	111	103	107	104	119	116	118	110	122	113	101	110	103
April ..	106	120	109	120	120	120	95	109	97	110	114	111	103	108	104	115	105	113	110	118	112	100	106	102
May ..	108	120	111	120	120	120	98	110	100	109	112	109	103	108	104	114	105	112	110	119	113	101	106	103
June ..	108	119	110	118	118	118	100	105	101	105	107	105	102	107	103	113	103	111	110	116	111	100	104	101
July (b) .. )	Not available		110	117	113	116	106	104	106	105	104	105	106	103	105	110	99	108	111	111	111	101	100	101
August .. )			110	116	115	116	108	112	109	104	106	104	105	103	104	109	89	104	110	113	111	101	101	101
September )			111	118	119	118	111	116	112	105	109	105	101	109	102	112	96	108	111	117	113	101	105	102
October .. )			114	121	118	120	109	113	110	105	103	105	102	109	104	115	98	111	113	117	114	103	104	104
November )			115	123	117	121	106	117	108	108	109	109	105	111	106	120	99	115	115	117	115	104	105	105
December )			114	122	116	120	102	116	105	111	108	111	105	112	106	120	101	116	114	117	115	103	104	104



MONTHLY INDEX OF FACTORY EMPLOYMENT - EXCLUDING WORKING PROPRIETORS  
(Continued)

Period	New South Wales			Victoria			Queensland			South Australia			Western Australia			Tasmania			Australia						
																			Unadjusted Index			Index divided by Index of Employee Population			
	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.				
1937 - January .. )	Not available			113	118	113	116	94	110	97	108	101	107	105	108	106	121	97	116	112	112	112	102	100	101
February .. )				119	124	121	123	96	112	99	112	118	113	108	107	108	126	110	122	116	121	118	105	108	106
March .. )				119	124	123	124	99	116	102	115	117	115	109	107	108	126	117	124	116	124	118	106	110	107
April .. )				117	126	130	127	102	110	103	117	120	118	109	110	109	121	103	117	116	126	119	105	112	107
May .. )				119	129	119	126	106	116	108	119	120	119	105	111	106	119	99	115	120	120	120	108	107	108
June .. )				120	129	119	126	109	114	110	119	119	119	107	109	107	119	99	115	120	120	120	109	106	108
July .. )				119	127	115	123	113	113	113	117	109	115	108	105	107	118	100	114	120	115	119	109	102	107
August .. )				121	127	117	124	118	121	119	115	110	114	108	106	108	116	93	111	122	118	120	110	104	108
September .. )				122	130	120	126	118	121	118	114	113	114	106	111	107	119	91	112	123	120	122	111	106	109
October .. )				125	131	122	128	114	121	116	114	108	113	106	112	107	122	97	116	123	123	123	111	109	110
November .. )				126	133	123	130	115	121	116	118	114	117	106	114	107	125	97	119	125	124	125	113	110	112
Number of Factories in Sample	1901			100			150			114			92			49			2406						
Percentage of employees in sample in 1935-36	86			21			47			54			33			60			53						

(a) The indexes for 1935-36 are based on the final factory returns. From July, 1936 the indexes have been computed on the basis of the 1935-36 final figures.

(b) After June, 1936 indexes are based on sample returns. Thereafter male and female indexes for Australia are calculated on the assumption that the change in masculinity in the six States is equal to the change in five States, excluding New South Wales for which sample masculinity figures are not available.

(c) Industrial dispute involving about 3,000 men.

MALES EMPLOYED IN FACTORIES AS PERCENTAGE OF ALL PERSONS EMPLOYED IN FACTORIES

Year	New South Wales	Victoria	Queensland	South Australia	Western Australia	Tasmania	Australia
1926-27	74.8	66.3	83.8	82.4	81.7	80.2	73.8
1927-28	74.8	66.2	83.2	82.0	81.2	77.6	73.6
1928-29	74.4	65.7	81.9	82.0	81.0	77.2	73.1
1929-30	74.1	65.1	81.9	81.7	80.3	78.2	72.7
1930-31	72.6	64.4	81.6	80.2	79.3	77.5	71.5
1931-32	70.7	62.1	80.8	78.6	77.6	76.6	69.5
1932-33	71.0	62.2	79.8	78.5	78.2	76.4	69.4
1933-34	71.5	63.2	79.7	79.8	78.9	77.9	70.2
1934-35	71.8	64.1	79.7	80.8	79.4	78.0	70.8
1935-36	72.2	65.3	80.0	81.2	80.1	78.6	71.5
1936-37(a)	n.a.	66.4	80.6	82.0	80.6	79.9	(b)72.6
1935 - July	72.7	65.3	80.8	81.6	79.9	78.3	71.9
August	72.4	64.8	80.2	80.9	79.7	79.0	71.5
September	72.0	64.7	79.8	80.9	79.6	79.5	71.2
October	71.9	64.8	80.1	81.2	80.0	79.3	71.3
November	72.0	65.1	80.0	81.1	79.8	79.4	71.4
December	72.0	65.4	80.0	81.1	79.9	79.1	71.5
1936 - January	73.1	65.9	79.5	81.6	80.3	79.2	72.1
February	71.8	65.1	79.5	80.8	80.4	76.6	71.2
March	71.5	65.1	79.3	81.1	80.5	77.7	71.1
April	72.0	65.6	79.9	81.4	80.3	78.7	71.6
May	72.2	65.6	80.1	81.5	80.2	78.5	71.7
June	72.5	65.8	81.0	81.8	80.2	78.7	72.0
July(a)	n.a.	66.4	82.2	82.3	81.4	79.0	(b)73.0
August	n.a.	66.0	81.4	81.7	81.2	80.4	72.7
September	n.a.	65.5	81.2	81.3	79.8	79.7	72.2
October	n.a.	66.2	81.4	82.3	80.0	79.8	72.5
November	n.a.	66.7	80.4	81.9	80.1	80.4	72.7
December	n.a.	66.8	80.0	82.4	79.9	80.2	72.6
1937 - January	n.a.	66.8	79.4	83.1	80.7	80.9	73.1
February	n.a.	66.4	79.4	81.3	81.1	79.4	72.3
March	n.a.	66.0	79.4	81.8	81.3	78.4	71.9
April	n.a.	65.0	80.7	81.7	80.8	79.8	71.4
May	n.a.	67.5	80.4	82.0	80.2	80.2	73.1
June	n.a.	67.5	81.2	82.1	80.6	80.3	73.2
July	n.a.	67.8	81.9	83.0	81.5	80.0	74.1
August	n.a.	67.4	81.5	82.7	81.4	80.8	73.8
September	n.a.	67.5	81.5	82.2	80.2	81.5	73.6
October	n.a.	67.2	81.1	82.8	80.2	80.9	73.2
November	n.a.	67.5	81.2	82.4	79.9	81.2	73.4

n.a. not available

Note. - This table has been revised to exclude working proprietors.

(a) From July, 1936 the percentages are based on estimates computed from returns from "sample" factories.

(b) From July, 1936 the percentage for Australia is calculated on the assumption that the change in masculinity in the six States is equal to the change in five States, excluding New South Wales for which sample masculinity figures are not available.



# MONTHLY INDEX OF EMPLOYMENT IN RETAIL STORES

(Base: July, 1933 = 100)

Month	New South Wales	Victoria	Queensland	South Australia	Western Australia	Tasmania	Australia	
							Unadjusted Index	Index divided by Index of Employee Population
Index for 1933-34	103	107	101	102	99	106	104	103
1934-35	111	118	106	108	105	108	112	110
1935-36	118	130	109	114	110	112	119	116
1936-37	124	137	111	115	115	119	125	120
1935 - July ..	116	120	107	107	111	109	115	112
August ..	113	120	108	109	105	108	113	111
September	113	123	104	113	106	107	114	112
October	115	128	107	112	106	107	117	114
November	119	131	106	115	109	110	120	117
December	133	145	106	128	123	120	133	130
1936 - January	116	132	109	116	114	115	120	116
February	119	133	107	114	110	111	120	117
March ..	117	132	109	113	110	111	119	116
April ..	118	129	108	114	109	113	119	115
May ..	119	132	110	114	111	112	121	117
June ..	120	132	110	113	109	113	121	117
July ..	122	130	109	116	113	107	121	117
August ..	120	128	109	115	111	113	120	116
September	120	128	109	118	113	115	120	116
October	121	133	110	112	116	116	122	118
November	123	139	111	115	116	119	125	121
December	137	155	121	125	127	132	138	133
1937 - January	123	138	112	112	116	120	125	120
February	125	137	111	111	114	122	125	120
March ..	123	135	111	111	114	118	123	118
April ..	124	136	109	113	114	120	124	119
May ..	126	138	111	114	113	121	126	120
June ..	126	141	110	114	113	121	126	121
July ..	129	137	110	115	115	124	127	121
August ..	126	133	110	112	113	121	124	118
September	126	135	110	117	113	123	125	119
October	127	140	110	113	114	123	127	121
November	129	143	110	115	116	125	129	123
Number of establishments now furnishing returns	599	102	120	35	69	14	939	939

## INDEXES OF EMPLOYMENT IN NEW SOUTH WALES AND QUEENSLAND.

Working from the basis of the results of the Census of 30th June, 1933, and from compilations made from returns of employers in remitting wages tax, and returns collected from Government Departments, the Government Statistician of New South Wales has prepared an index of employment and unemployment covering all persons dependent on employment in New South Wales. The Director of the Bureau of Industry of Queensland publishes an index of employment and unemployment among men wage and salary earners. The data for this index are derived from information relating to Unemployment Insurance contributions and other sources. The results are given below -

NEW SOUTH WALES

Percentages of Employment and Unemployment - All available wage-earners  
(a) Including and (b) Excluding as employed the full-time equivalent of  
men engaged part-time on relief works.

Period	Percentage of all who are dependent on and available for employment			
	(a) Including as employed the full-time equivalent of all part-time relief workers		(b) Including all part-time relief workers as unemployed	
	Employed	Unemployed	Employed	Unemployed
Census of 30th June, 1933	74.4	25.6	73.5	26.5
1934 - June ..	80.5	19.5	77.8	22.2
1935 - June ..	85.9	14.1	83.1	16.9
1936 - June ..	89.3	10.7	87.1	12.9
September	90.0	10.0	88.6	11.4
October ..	91.4	8.6	90.0	10.0
November	91.6	8.4	90.1	9.9
December	92.9	7.1	91.5	8.5
1937 - January ..	90.4	9.6	89.2	10.8
February	92.2	7.8	90.8	9.2
March ..	92.2	7.8	90.8	9.2
April ..	92.6	7.4	91.3	8.7
May ..	93.1	6.9	91.9	8.1
June ..	93.5	6.5	92.3	7.7
July ..	93.8	6.2	92.6	7.4
August ..	94.3	5.7	93.0	7.0
September	95.1	4.9	93.9	6.1
October ..	96.2	3.8	95.1	4.9
November	96.9	3.1	95.7	4.3

The indexes have recently been revised. In estimating the increase in the number of persons dependent on employment allowance has now been made for (a) increase in the proportion of females who are wage-earners, and (b) youths who were without occupation but were not recorded in the wage-earning group at the Census of 1933. Adjustment for seasonal variations in employment is not made.

At the Census of 30th June, 1933, 15,142 persons dependent on employment returned themselves as unemployed by reason of illness, accident, etc. or "voluntarily". This number, representing 1.8 per cent. of all persons dependent on employment, is excluded from the above indexes, which relate to percentages of available wage-earners, employed and unemployed.

The approximate number of persons in private employment was 478,000 in June, 1933; 653,000 in June, 1937; and 686,000 in November, 1937.

QUEENSLAND

Employment and Unemployment among Men Wage and Salary Earners

Period	(a) Including as employed the full-time equivalent of part-time relief workers		(b) Including "Intermittent Relief Workers" as unemployed	
	Employed	Unemployed	Employed	Unemployed
Year 1933	79.8	20.2	73.9	26.1
1934	84.9	15.1	80.1	19.9
1935	89.0	11.0	84.4	15.6
1936	92.3	7.7	87.4	12.6
3 months ended -				
1936 - March ..	91.0	9.0	85.5	14.5
June ..	91.8	8.2	86.4	13.6
September	94.7	5.3	89.9	10.1
December	91.9	8.1	88.1	11.9
1937 - March ..	91.4	8.6	87.8	12.2
April ..	93.6	6.4	90.0	10.0
May ..	94.0	6.0	90.3	9.7
June ..	94.3	5.7	90.5	9.5
July ..	94.5	5.5	90.7	9.3
August ..	94.9	5.1	91.2	8.8
September	95.0	5.0	91.4	8.6
October ..	95.2	4.8	91.5	8.5



The above table is in terms of full-time employment and unemployment. Normal seasonal variation is excluded. Allowance has been made for an estimated annual increase of 1.5% in the number of men dependent on employment. The approximate number of men in employment in October, 1937, excluding relief workers, was 170,720.

UNEMPLOYMENT  
QUARTER ENDED DECEMBER, 1937

The figures relating to unemployment among members of Trade Unions are, similarly to those published in the past, derived from returns furnished by Trade Unions.

The percentages of recorded unemployment among members of reporting Trade Unions for Australia as a whole for each quarter from the June quarter of 1932, when unemployment was at its maximum, to the December quarter of 1937, are as follows:-

AUSTRALIA

1932	-	June quarter	30.0	per cent.
1933	-	March quarter	26.5	" "
		June "	25.7	" "
		September "	25.1	" "
		December "	23.0	" "
1934	-	March quarter	21.9	" "
		June "	20.9	" "
		September "	20.4	" "
		December "	18.8	" "
1935	-	March quarter	18.6	" "
		June "	17.8	" "
		September "	15.9	" "
		December "	13.7	" "
1936	-	March quarter	13.4	" "
		June "	12.8	" "
		September "	12.0	" "
		December "	10.7	" "
1937	-	March quarter	9.9	" "
		June "	9.7	" "
		September "	9.3	" "
		December "	8.2	" "

It should be noted that the figures refer to the mid-month of each quarter, and represent the conditions at the middle of that month. Consequently, the latest figures referred to herein relate to the middle of November, 1937.

The percentages given above show a continuous decline from the peak point (30.0%) in unemployment attained in the June quarter of 1932, after an almost continuous rise since the March quarter 1929, when the rate was 9.3 per cent. After remaining fairly constant at 28.0 per cent. to 28.3 per cent. for three quarters - from August, 1931 to February, 1932 - the maximum point was reached in May, 1932, when the proportion of unemployment in the reporting Trade Unions was 30 per cent. of the membership.

From the peak the proportion of unemployed decreased by 4 per thousand in the September quarter of 1932, and in the two following quarters the improvement was much more marked, amounting to 15 per thousand in the December quarter of 1932, and 16 per thousand in the March quarter of 1933. The improvement continued until unemployment stood at 8.2 per cent. for the December quarter 1937. This is the lowest percentage of unemployment since August, 1927, when it was 6.7 per cent. Since the maximum point in May, 1932, the rate of unemployment has diminished by 218 per 1,000 members, i.e. from 30.0 per cent. in May, 1932 to 8.2 per cent. in November, 1937.

This improvement since May, 1932, has been experienced in all the States in the following order (per 1,000 members):- South Australia, 287; Western Australia, 253; New South Wales, 231; Victoria, 204; Tasmania, 172; Queensland, 133.

The usual tables for Trade Union Unemployment are appended.

AUSTRALIA  
Number and Membership of Trade Unions Reporting and Number  
and Percentage of Unemployed  
March quarter, 1929 to December quarter, 1937.

Australia	March Quarter 1929	June Quarter 1932	June Quarter 1933	June Quarter 1934	Dec. Quarter 1936	June Quarter 1937	Sept. Quarter 1937	Dec. Quarter 1937
Number of Unions ..	375	396	394	394	390	387	387	387
Membership ..	420,756	413,742	415,559	422,113	437,246	447,714	451,584	455,608
Unemployed - Number	39,159	124,068	106,652	88,413	46,863	43,584	42,145	37,558
Percentage	9.3	30.0	25.7	20.9	10.7	9.7	9.3	8.2

STATES  
Percentage of Members of Trade Unions  
Reported as Unemployed in each State  
March quarter, 1929 to December quarter, 1937.

State	March Quarter 1929	June Quarter 1932	June Quarter 1933	June Quarter 1934	Dec. Quarter 1936	June Quarter 1937	Sept. Quarter 1937	Dec. Quarter 1937
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
New South Wales	9.7	33.2	29.6	25.0	13.3	11.4	10.5	10.1
Victoria ..	8.6	27.7	23.0	18.0	9.7	9.6	9.5	7.3
Queensland ..	7.1	19.9	15.6	12.7	7.2	7.6	7.2	6.6
South Australia	13.2	35.2	30.0	25.4	9.9	8.3	8.4	6.5
Western Australia	8.5	30.3	26.0	18.3	5.6	5.6	6.6	5.0
Tasmania ..	8.7	27.4	19.0	17.9	12.9	10.4	10.6	10.2
TOTAL:	9.3	30.0	25.7	20.9	10.7	9.7	9.3	8.2

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Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics,

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